



gracefallschurch.org  GraceFallsChurchVA  gracelutheranchurchva  Grace Falls Church

**M:** Minister

**A:** All

## WELCOME

**HYMN:**

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”  
*found on page 6 of this worship folder*

## INVOCATION

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**A:** Amen.

## CONFESSION OF SINS

**M:** God created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**A:** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**A:** Amen.

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** Let us pray.

*The minister offers the Prayer of the Day.*

## THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

### FIRST LESSON:

Isaiah 29:13, 22-24

The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught....<sup>22</sup> Therefore this is what the Lord, who redeemed Abraham, says to the descendants of Jacob: "No longer will Jacob be ashamed; no longer will their faces grow pale."<sup>23</sup> When they see among them their children, the work of my hands, they will keep my name holy; they will acknowledge the holiness of the Holy One of Jacob, and will stand in awe of the God of Israel.<sup>24</sup> Those who are wayward in spirit will gain understanding; those who complain will accept instruction."

### GOSPEL LESSON:

Colossians 3:12-14

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.<sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.<sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**A: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**HYMN:**

**“Not unto Us”**  
*found on page 7 of this worship folder*

## MESSAGE

“Amazing Love: The Father’s Love for the Older Son”  
*based on Luke 15:11-32*

### Luke 15:11-32

Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ <sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup> “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup> Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup> ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup> The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup> ‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

## **PRAYERS & BLESSING**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*The minister offers the Prayer of the Church.*

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**A: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### **HYMN:**

“There Is a Redeemer”  
*found on page 8 of this worship folder*

### **INSTALLATION OF LYDIA WILDE AS KINDERGARTEN TEACHER AT GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & BLESSING**

# Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

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1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me  
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; Come thou al - so  
 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed; Here thy seed is  
 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en; Let me keep thy  
 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee; Let thy will be

en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty  
 un - to me, Where we find thee and a - dore thee,  
 du - ly sown. Let my soul, where it is plant - ed,  
 gift di - vine, How - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en;  
 done in - deed. May I un - dis - turbed draw near thee

Waits for him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed  
 There a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, oh,  
 Bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone, So that all I  
 May thy Word still o'er me shine As my guid - ing  
 While thou dost thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the

is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!  
 en - ter thou; Let it be thy tem - ple now!  
 hear may be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.  
 star through life, As my com - fort in all strife.  
 foun - tain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
 Tune: Joachim Neander, 1650-80, alt.

UNSER HERRSCHER  
 87 87 77

## Not unto Us

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1 Not un - to us, not un - to us be glo - ry,  
 2 A - maz - ing grace — that chose us e'er the worlds were  
 3 O faith - ful love — that shep - herd - ed through faith - less  
 4 Not un - to us but to your name be glo - ry,

Lord; Not un - to us but to your name be praise;  
 made; A - maz - ing grace — that sent your Son to save;  
 years; For - giv - ing love — that led us to your truth;  
 Lord, For grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.

Not un - to us but to your name all hon - or be  
 A - maz - ing grace — that robed us in your right - eous -  
 Un - yield - ing love — that would not let us turn from  
 A - bide with us till trav - 'ling days are o - ver and

giv'n For match - less mer - cy, for - give - ness, and grace.  
 ness And taught our lips to sing glo - ry and praise.  
 you But sent us forth to speak par - don and peace.  
 done, And pil - grim feet lead us home, Lord, to you.

Text: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923-93, alt.  
 Tune: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923-93

NOT UNTO US  
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Text and Tune © 1993 Kurt J. Eggert; Setting © 1993 Mrs. James E. Engel

# There Is a Redeemer

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1 There is a Re-deem-er, Je-sus, God's own Son,  
2 Je-sus, my Re-deem-er, Name a-bove all names,  
3 When I stand in glo-ry, I will see his face;

Pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si-ah, Ho-ly One.  
Pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si-ah, Hope for sin-ners slain.  
There I'll serve my King for-ev-er In that ho-ly place.

*Refrain*

Thank you, O my Fa-ther, for giv-ing us your Son and

leav-ing your Spir-it till the work on earth is done.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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